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Dear Sangha Friends,



With heavy hearts we let you know that our beloved, antique temple cat, Buckley-san, made the great leap yesterday afternoon. He had led a very full nine lives in his twenty years. He was a fighter, ambassador, comfort and great friend. We will miss him...

From <>^.|.^<>
Rev. M.D. Lahey:

Yesterday morning around 9:30, our dear temple cat Buckley began to suffer acute intestinal distress, which by noon time had left him exhausted and nearly unable to stand. I spent the morning hours caring for him as best I could, and finally called Vet on Wheels, Dr. Julio Bolivar, who agreed to come by in the afternoon to examine Buckley. By the time the doctor got here, he listened to poor Buckley's heart, and diagnosed heart failure, as a consequence of which most of Buckley's organ systems were ceasing to function properly. Buckley was confused, essentially too weak to stand up, in obvious pain from internal cramps, and the doctor felt that he was in a situation from which he could not recover. Those of us who were assembled determined that the time had come to help Buckley to cross over as gently as possible. We all waited quietly with Buckley while Dr. Bolivar administered first a sleeping draught, and then after Buckley was in deep slumber, a potion to suppress the life function altogether. His frail little body remained warm to the touch as we placed him in his cat carrier for his final journey in this life. A nearby firm will perform the cremation, and we will collect his ashes to have them here with us at Issan-ji, as befits the cat who lived virtually his entire life with us. Our resident Jim W. has very kindly agreed to defray the cost of the vet visit, for which we thank him most warmly. So, good bye for now, little friend...

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